

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05
EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /100 W
-----062484 100355Z /14

R 100200Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8412
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1149

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: SREF SOCI EAGR LA
SUBJ: LPDR RESPONSE TO WORSENING FOOD CRISIS

REF: VIENTIANE 1093

1. A SENIOR OFFICIAL WITH THE UN IN VIENTIANE TOLD US
AUGUST 9 THAT THE LPRP CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS NOW CON-
SIDERING A NEW POLICY WHEREBY LAO, VIETNAMESE AND THAI
DAM CITIZENS OF LAOS WHO WISH TO LEAVE LAOS WILL BE
ALLOWED TO DO SO. HE SAID THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS
FURTHER CONSIDERING GRANTING ALL THOSE WHO DO LEAVE
DOCUMENTS WHICH WOULD PERMIT THEM TO RE-ENTER LAOS AT
SOME FUTURE DATE IF THEY SO DESIRE. THE U.N. OFFICIAL
SAID THAT HIS REPORT CAME FROM AN "OFFICIAL SOURCE" AND
THAT HIS SOURCE EXPECTED THE COMMITTEE TO ACT FAVORABLY
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ON THE PROPOSED POLICY.

2. THE U.N. OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACTION
WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE CONTINUING FOOD CRISIS IN LAOS
AND TO GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION OF THE LEVEL OF POPULAR
DISSATISFACTION WITH LPDR POLICIES.

3. THE U.N. OFFICIAL SAID THAT MALNUTRITION DID NOT YET APPEAR TO BE A PROBLEM BUT THAT IT WAS A SERIOUS CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF PROSPECTS FOR A WORSENING FOOD CRISIS.

4. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE NATION-WIDE DROUGHT AND LACK OF ENTHUSIASM AMONG FARMERS TO PRODUCE RICE FOR WHICH THEY RECEIVE LITTLE PROFIT WERE TWIN PROBLEMS ASSURING A BAD 1977 RICE HARVEST.

5. HE SAID THAT LAO OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE IS IN CONTACT ARE CONSIDERING EMERGENCY APPEALS AND PURCHASES OF RICE AMOUNTING TO 225,000 TONS. HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAD EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS IN ESTIMATING LAO RICE NEEDS IN 1976 PARTIALLY BECAUSE WHEREAS THEY ESTIMATED AVERAGE RICE YIELDS OF 1.4 TONS PER HECTARE IN THE PLAINS AND 1.2 TONS PER HECTARE IN THE HIGHLANDS, ACTUAL AVERAGE YIELD IN LAOS IS 1.1 TONS IN THE PLAINS AND 0.8 TONS IN THE HIGHLANDS.

6. COMMENT:

A. A GOVERNMENT DECISION TO PERMIT LAO CITIZENS TO LEAVE LAOS WITH DOCUMENTATION AFFORDING THEM THE OPTION OF EVENTUAL RETURN WOULD NO DOUBT PRODUCE A CONFIDENTIAL

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LOT OF PEOPLE READY AND WILLING TO GO. WE DO NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THIS REPORT, HOWEVER. PRESUMABLY THE LPDR COULD RATIONALIZE SUCH A MOVE ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD GET RID OF POLITICAL UNDESIRABLES. NEVERTHELESS, IF THE REPORT SHOULD TURN OUT TO BE TRUE IT WOULD REPRESENT AN EXTRAORDINARY LOSS OF PRESTIGE FOR THE LPRP/LPDR.

B. IN ANY EVENT, DOCUMENTING SUCH PEOPLE FOR ENTRY INTO SOME OTHER COUNTRY WOULD BE A PROBLEM LYING OUTSIDE LAO JURISDICTION.

C. IMPORTATION OF ANYTHING LIKE 225,000 TONS OF RICE OVER, SAY, THE NEXT 6 MONTHS WOULD PLACE UNUSUAL DEMANDS ON THE LAO DISTRIBUTION AND STORAGE SYSTEMS AND MIGHT WELL BE BEYOND THEIR CAPACITIES. APPLYING A CRUDE RULE OF THUMB OF 500 GRAMS PER PERSON PER DAY, THIS QUANTITY WOULD COME TO ABOUT A THEORETICAL 6-MONTHS SUPPLY FOR THE WHOLE LAO POPULATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD SHORTAGE, RICE, POLICIES, EXIT VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENTI01149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770287-0346
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770874/aaaackrr.tel
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Litigation History:
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SAS ID: 1639399
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TAGS: SREF, SOCI, EAGR, SENV, CVIS, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
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